



A new and unique event for Himno y Bandera Day proved fun and filling!

Countless contests and events filled Aruba's special day of celebration, but few were as filling as the Ostrich Burger Eating Contest at the Aruba Ostrich Farm in Mativaderi.

Located on the road to the Gold works and the Natural Bridge, the ostrich farm is an entertaining afternoon observing these fascinating creatures. It also offers a tempting menu at the Savannah Lodge Restaurant, along with one of the most breathtaking views to enjoy while indulging in some ostrich steak or a glass of wine.

On Saturday, five contestants were not looking at the view, they only had their eyes on the mound of ostrich burgers before them they were required to devour within a twelve-minute period; no choking, spitting or regurgitating allowed. Whatever was on the plate had to go down the gullet and nowhere else. It was a tough job, but somebody's had to do it!

Ostrich Farm owner Kenneth Simon looked on as his tour guide Dwight, moonlighting as MC did a masterful job as commentator, evoking quite a few laughs, but none to match the hysteria brought on by a monumental belch from contestant Jerry Willimsberg. It was a close and tense competition between Ruben Ponte-Lira, Jerry, Humberto Geerman, Raymond Gesterkamp, and Wendell of ABC tours. Humberto thought he would surely win as he mastered a technique of downing the burger first and then following with the bun. Contenders were free to use as much ketchup and mayonnaise as they pleased, and to sip at water to help get the burgers down. Despite his resourcefulness, Umberto was no match for Ruben, who downed a full five ostrich burgers in the time allotted, Umberto's four and three-quarters earned him second place, and Raymond, the youngest contestant at fourteen years old earned third place by finishing four and a half.

Ruben took home as his prize an authentic ostrich egg, beautifully engraved, and an Aruba Ostrich Farm polo shirt. Members of the audience were also winners, as they were able to consume all the ostrich burgers that were left behind. Amongst all the fun and games for Himno y Bandera Day, this had to be the tastiest one yet!